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I. SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS AGREEMENT SIGNED BY ISRAEL AND PLO ON 4 MAY 1994 BRINGS THEM CLOSER TO GOAL OF LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The following statement was released by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on 4 May 1994 (see SG/SM/5278):

"The Secretary-General welcomes the agreement signed this morning in Cairo by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). He congratulates the parties on this first and major step in implementing the Declaration of Principles, and encourages them to sustain the negotiations over which they have laboured so intensively in recent weeks. He pays tribute to those who have facilitated the Gaza-Jericho accord, in particular the United States and the Russian Federation as co-sponsors of the peace process, as well as Egypt and Norway.

"The Secretary-General notes that each move forward, such as today's achievement, brings Israelis and Palestinians closer to the goal of peace, for which both sides have yearned. It also sets an example to the region as a whole. As the parties have themselves agreed, peace in the Middle East must be comprehensive, just and lasting, based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

"On this historic occasion, the Secretary-General appeals to the international community to fulfil its commitments in support of the Declaration of Principles, in particular with respect to the financial assistance which will be an essential element as the Palestinians embark on self-rule. For his part, the Secretary-General reiterates the readiness of the United Nations to lend the widest possible support to this process."

II. SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS TERJE ROED LARSEN OF NORWAY AS SPECIAL COORDINATOR IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The following statement was made by the Secretary-General on 25 May 1994 (see SG/SM/5298):

"I have decided to appoint Ambassador Terje Roed Larsen to Norway as my Special Coordinator in the occupied territories, effective 1 June. As you may be aware, Ambassador Larsen has played an important role in facilitating the negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles last September and to the agreement on Gaza and Jericho signed earlier this month in Cairo. I am delighted that the United Nations will be represented by someone with a deep knowledge of the area, excellent contacts with the concerned parties, and expertise in the economic and social fields.

"In serving as Special Coordinator, Ambassador Larsen will be a focal point for all United Nations economic, social and other assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied territories. He will provide overall guidance to, and facilitate coordination among the United Nations programmes and the agencies operating in the territories -- namely, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -- so as to ensure an integrated and unified approach to economic and social development. In addition to these coordinating functions, Ambassador Larsen will support the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, as requested by the parties."